

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of any certified copies of priority document(s) provided earlier.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

I. Claims 1-7 and 10-12, drawn to methods of applying self-assembled monolayers; and

II. Claims 8, 9, and 13 drawn to an article,

In response, applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute claims 1-7, and 10-12, identified as species, along with any newly added claims drawn to the same species. Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.

**MPEP § 803 - Restriction - When Proper**

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European claim phraseology with U.S. claim language having the same meaning. The claims are not narrowed in scope. New dependent claims are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. The title is amended to reflect the election. No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is

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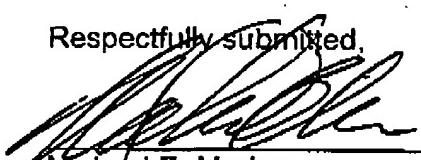
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respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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